



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Lewis and Clark National  
Historical Park

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# Lewis and Clark National Historical Park News Release

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## Join the Great Backyard Bird Count at Fort Clatsop, Feb. 17-20

Bring your family, friends, binoculars, and field guide books to Fort Clatsop and participate in the 15th annual Great Backyard Bird Count. The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages birders of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one day, or you can count for as long as you like each day of the event. It's fun and easy—and it helps the birds. The count, an international event created and sponsored by the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, lets citizen scientists contribute checklists online at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org).

From Friday, February 17 through Monday, February 20, visitors to Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, Fort Clatsop can learn about participating in the count, record bird numbers in the park and make plans to count birds in their own backyards. Binoculars as well as birding and art daypacks will be available for loan within the park during this event.

Along with the actual bird counting activities, the park has planned four days of bird-related opportunities. A pink heron scavenger hunt will be on-going using the Netul River Trail along the Lewis and Clark River. A "Birds of Fort Clatsop" display is in the visitor center lobby. On Friday, February 17, visitors might encounter a wildlife artist working in the visitor center.

On Saturday, February 18, a birding walk will start at 9:30 a.m. at the Visitor Center lobby. Although leashed dogs are welcome at most of the park's outdoor programs, they are not allowed at this morning walk. Please dress for the weather. The walk is wheelchair accessible although non-motorized users might need assistance for about 200 yards. Also on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., a bird-themed children's crafts, face-painting and education corner will be available in the visitor center.

On Sunday, February 19, wildlife biologist Deborah Jaques will talk about *Brown Pelicans in the Pacific Northwest* at 1 p.m. in the Netul River Room of the Fort Clatsop Visitor Center. This *In Their Footsteps* program will feature the history of brown pelicans in the Columbia River region, the general ecology of

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the species, and current research and management topics on the west coast. Bird-themed children's crafts and face-painting will be available in the afternoon.

Presidents' Day visitors on Monday, February 20 will find the bird-themed crafts, face-painting and education corner available from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. as well as rangers to assist with bird identification and counts.

Park hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Admission is \$3 per adult and free for youth 15 years old and under. There is no extra fee to participate in any of the activities associated with the Great Backyard Bird Count. Passes to National Park Service sites are accepted. A variety of bird field guides are available for purchase at the Lewis & Clark National Park Association bookstore in the Fort Clatsop Visitor Center.

For more information on the national bird count event or to submit bird counts from your home: go to [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org). The weekend's birding events at Fort Clatsop are sponsored by the Lewis & Clark National Park Association and the National Park Service. For more information, call the park at (503) 861-2471 or check out [www.nps.gov/lewi](http://www.nps.gov/lewi) or Lewis and Clark National Historical Park on Facebook.

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